

UP TO DATE

SPORTING NEWS AND COMMENT

EDITED BY
ROBERT EDGREN

THE HEAVY-WEIGHT TITLE IS UP AGAINST NEW COMPLICATIONS.



THE astonishing defeat of Marvin Hart by Tommy Burns (Noah Brusso) has complicated the heavy-weight situation. Hart's claim to the heavy-weight title, of course, was based merely upon his defeat of Jack Root, a second-rate light heavy-weight, but still the Kentuckian's name and strength and well-known games made him seem the likeliest candidate for the honors.

This Burns, or Brusso, is a little bit of a fellow for a heavy-weight champion. To put him in a ring with Jeffries would look like promoting a crime. The top of his head would come on a level with the boiler-maker's shoulder.

But Burns is a stocky little man, heavily built. He is a larger edition of Kid Lavigne, the once famous light-weight. He is very clever, strong, and a fairly hard hitter. Among the present-day heavies he will class well, although he would have been nowhere with Jeff, Fitz, Corbett, Sharkey and Ruhlman.

Jack O'Brien fought Burns a year ago Oct. 7. Jack won on the referee's decision at the end of six rounds. I asked O'Brien for the details of that fight. "Brusso," said Jack, "is a very likely fellow. He isn't tall, but he is strong as a little bull. He has a good head. His face shows intelligence of a good order. His features are fine and sharp. He has a rather high nose, a good forehead and a strong jaw. He is a right-hand fighter. That is where I have it on him, for any man who leads with his right all the time is easy for me. Brusso is very strong, but he doesn't show any knotted, bunched muscles. He is loose and quick. I should say that he is built much like 'Young Corbett' at his best, only much bigger. When we fought he was a middle-weight, and he insisted that I should make the middle-weight limit for the fight. We weighed in at 8 o'clock, and I scaled 153½ pounds.

"I am offered a fight on the coast with the best man they can pick out for me. Brusso will do as well as anybody else, as far as I am concerned. I'm confident that I can win him. But, ah me! They say he has signed up for twenty-five weeks on a valuable circuit. So I suppose there won't be much of a chance for us to get together. Everybody likes the easy money nowadays."

R. BURNS—Brusso showed that he is a right-hand fighter when he whipped Hart. In one round he landed the right six times in succession on Hart's face, and without taking a punch in return. But he used a good left in the stomach, too, and that took a lot of steam out of Hart. Still it is a safe bet that O'Brien is sorry he didn't get Hart first. O'Brien could have turned the trick as well as Burns, and probably better. Hart showed that he has no chance with a clever boxer who will force the fighting and stick to it until the end. He beat Jack Johnson, who is one clever boxer when he finds the other fellow wading in against the best he can stand over.

O'Brien and Burns would make a good match. They are nearly of the same weight. O'Brien has an advantage in reach. They are both clever, but Burns is a wallower, while O'Brien fights carefully until he has his man in shape to be knocked out.

WITH this newsmen tied up for twenty-five weeks, the only real heavy-weight in sight who might dispute the championship claims of O'Brien is Gus Ruhlman. Gus is an old-timer, but still willing.

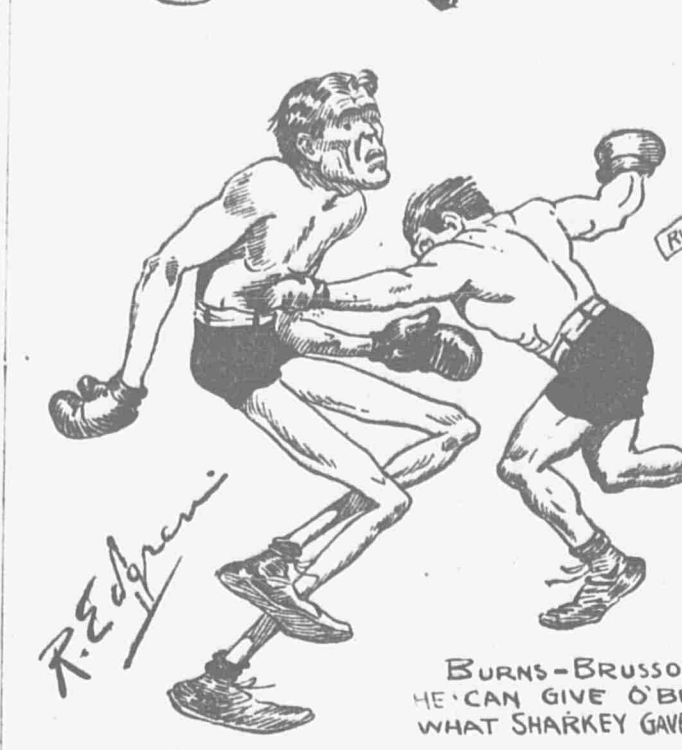
The Akron Giant is a real heavy-weight. He is clever, too, which would make him a dangerous man for Jack to tackle. He has a punch, which he proved by twice knocking out Tom Sharkey.

WOULD PURIFY BOXING GAME
Managers of Eight of Them Combine to Keep the Sport Clean from Fraud.

BY JOHN POLLOCK.
Managers of the legitimate athletic clubs in this city holding boxing staves have at last combined and formed an organization for the purpose of purifying the sport. They want to save it from falling into the same disgrace as during the Houston law days, when fake contests at the Broadway A. C. and Madison Square Garden caused the public to raise such an outcry that the legislature at Albany introduced a bill that repealed the law and stopped boxing contests for several years. In order not to have a thing happen again, the managers called a meeting yesterday at the Long Acre A. C. in West Twenty-ninth street, and eight clubs joined the organization. These clubs are the Long Acre A. C., Navarre A. C., Colma A. C., Metropolitan A. C., Colma A. C., Consolidated A. C. and Padlock A. C.

Colored Boxers and Fakirs Barred.
The managers got right down to business, and after a lengthy meeting decided to discontinue with colored pugilists, have a pugilist from each club to examine the boxers and allow them to fight only if they are clean. The law was ordered out of the city, and the clubs in this vicinity or those out of town who will clean in this manner will be allowed to fight. The managers will hold their next meeting on March 10.

Sieger and Ernie Fight To-Night.
There will be a battle between two light-weighters at the Washington Sporting Club of Philadelphia, to-night that ought to be one of the best fought battles between men of their size that has ever been fought in the Quaker City. The fight will be between Sieger, the Hoboken pugilist, and Ernie, the Philadelphia pugilist, and they are expected to be on the card.



HIGHLANDERS WILL BE FETTERED
Royal Welcome Awaits Griff's Boys—Everything in Readiness.

BY BOZEMAN C. BULGER.
BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 26.—When Clark Griffith gets to Birmingham next week he'll be surprised. His youngsters will run into an unexpected welcome. Birmingham has never seen the Highlanders, and the fans propose to make it so pleasant for Griffith that he'll come again.

The baseball park has been put in apple-pie order and the diamond is scarred down to a barber shop finish. The stands are remodeled and, in fact, everything is right on edge for a good mix-up the first crack out of the box.

Team Elected Members.
The Birmingham Athletic Club, which, by the way, is one of the best equipped in the country, has already elected the members of the New York team non-resident members, and the Highlanders will have all the benefits of the baths and rubbing tables. Lockers have also been set apart for them.

Talky parties will be arranged for the players and local theatres will help to entertain them at night. Birmingham proposes to make a fuss over the big leaguers, and there's a vow.

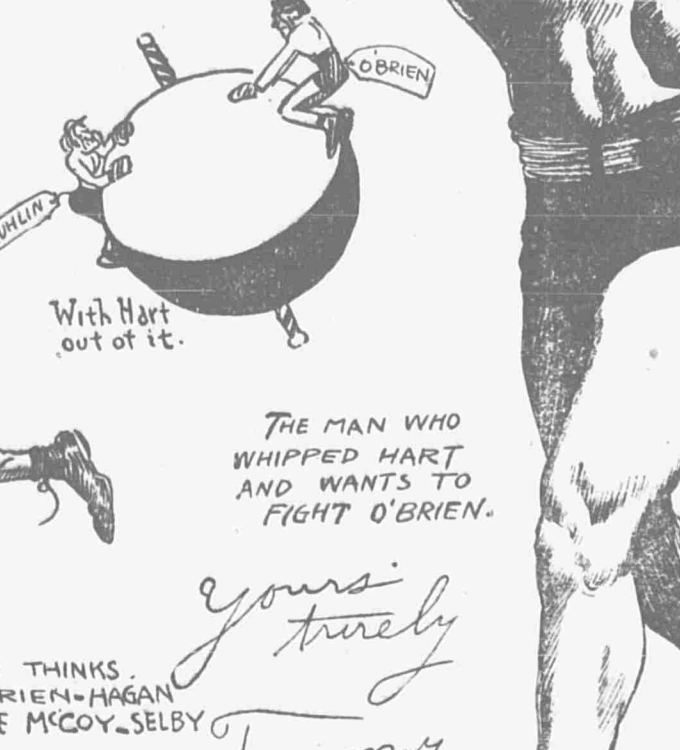
Have Fallen Out with Giants.
There was a falling out last spring between the Birmingham fans and the Giants, and now the local sport lovers propose to make heroes out of the American Leaguers. On the other hand, Memphis gets the Giants, and the fans there say they will show enough hospitality to make Birmingham ashamed of herself.

All in all, the New York teams are going to enjoy life in the South this spring. From present indications weather conditions are going to be ideal for spring training. For several days past the atmosphere has been balmy enough to shed coats and put much balls in the overcoats. The temperature here for weeks has been 70, and baseball could be played any afternoon.

Giants Won Twice.
The winter has been milder than usual, and as January and February, the two dangerous months, have passed, the winter has been a success. The signs say it will be a continuous spring. Everything now awaits the coming of Griffith and his champions. Birmingham has twice started the Giants off as pennant winners, and baseball lovers here have no reason why they can't do fully as much for the Highlanders.

Jack Goodman to Box Keyes to-Night.
Jack Goodman, the clever and hard-hitting feather-weight of the Avonia A. C. and Bert Keyes, the Quaker City fighter, who recently boxed Chesler down a fifteen-round draw, and also knocked out Alex. Dunheath, will be the principals in the star bout at the stage of the Navarre A. C., which takes place to-night in its clubhouse, American Theatre Hall, Forty-second street and Eighth avenue.

Will be their second encounter, Goodman having boxed Keyes in their first contest. Besides this great bout there will be seven other battles.



THE MAN WHO WHIPPED HART AND WANTS TO FIGHT O'BRIEN.
Gours truly
Tommy Burns

BURNS-BRUSSO THINKS HE CAN GIVE O'BRIEN-HAGAN WHAT SHARKEY GAVE MCCOY-SELBY

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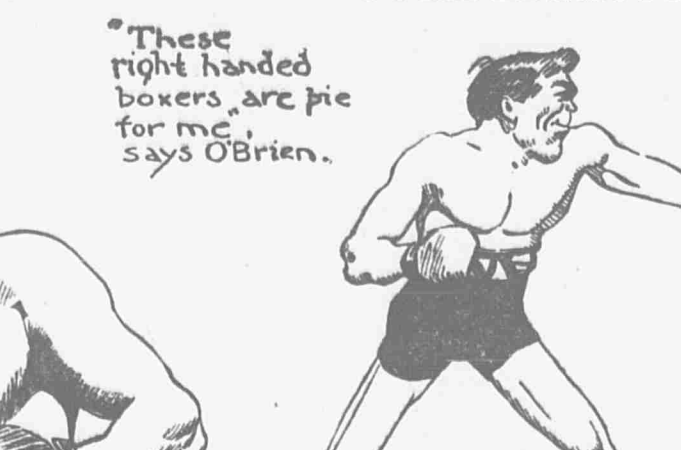
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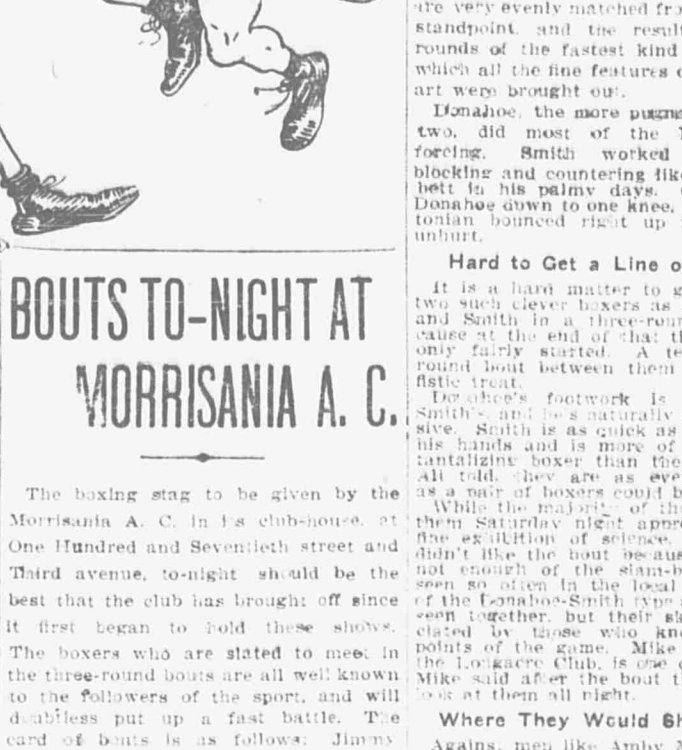
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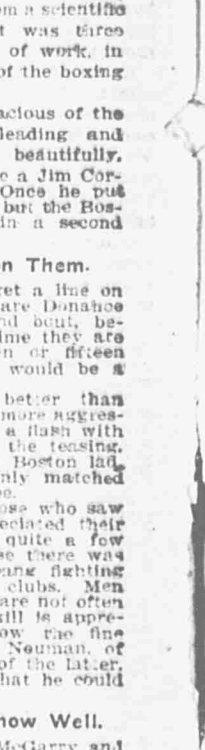
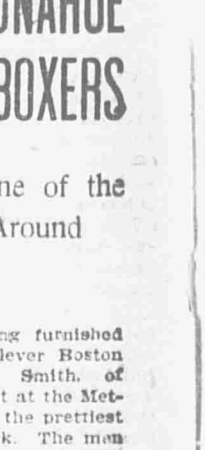
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